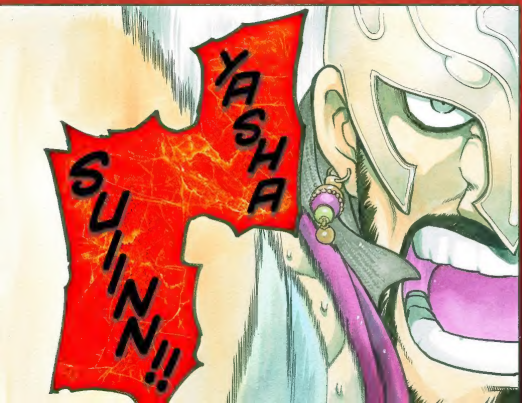
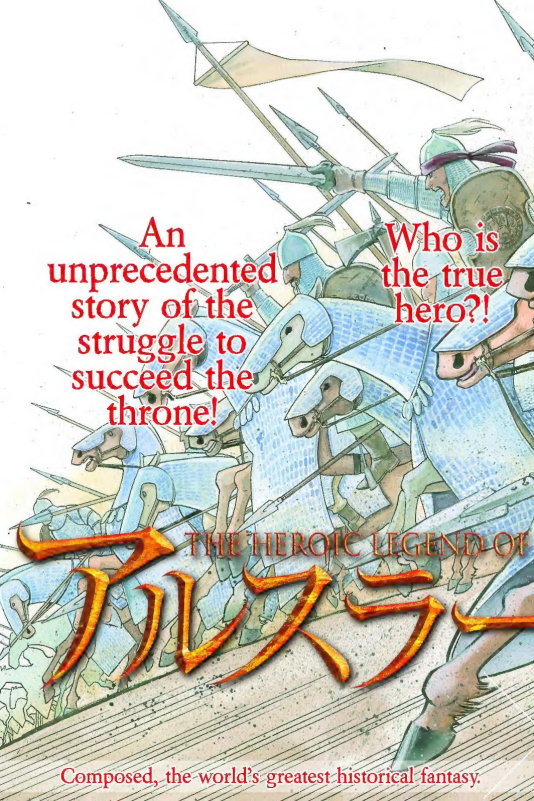
ARAKAWA HIROMU & TANAKA YOSHIKI

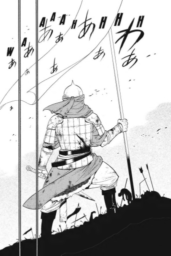
THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN



Someday, a boy will become a man,
then in time, the man will become a king.
ARSLAN
アルスラーン戦記
CHAPTER 1: The Splendor of Ecbatana
ARAKAWA HIROMU & TANAKA YOSHIKI
Illustrated, a heretofore unseen, never to be seen again style.


An unprecedented story of the struggle to succeed the throne!
Who is the true hero?!
THE HEROIC LEGEND OF
アルスラーン
Composed, the world's greatest historical fantasy.

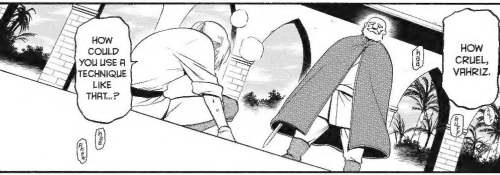
This story is fiction. It has no connection to real people, groups or events.

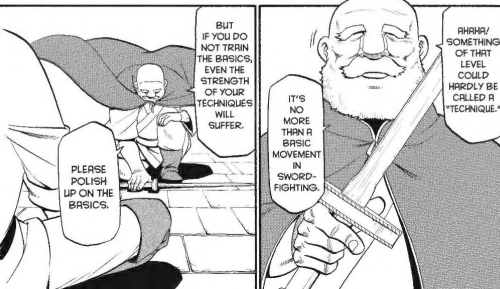

WAAAHHHH

FLAPP

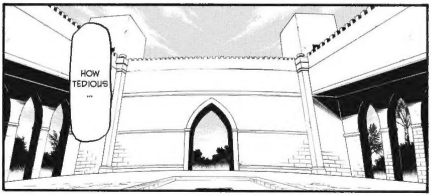
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLACK
CLANG
CLANG
CRK
CLACK
CRING
ALL RIGHT.
UP.
YES.
ALL RIGHT.
DOWN.
CLANG
OKAY.
CEN-TER.
THUNK
WAH ...
CEN-TER.
WAIT ...!
AH...
WH...

CLANG
CLANG
CLANG


HOW CRUEL, VAHRIZ.
HOW COULD YOU USE A TECHNIQUE LIKE THAT...?


AHAHA/ SOMETHING OF THAT LEVEL COULD HARDLY BE CALLED A "TECHNIQUE."
IT'S NO MORE THAN A BASIC MOVEMENT IN SWORD-FIGHTING.
BUT IF YOU DO NOT TRAIN THE BASICS, EVEN THE STRENGTH OF YOUR TECHNIQUES WILL SUFFER.
PLEASE POLISH UP ON THE BASICS.

ARSLAN, YOUR HIGHNESS.


HOW TEDIOUS ...

ALL BECAUSE OF THAT, I AM CURSED TO PRACTICE SWORD-FIGHTING WITH YOU, EVERY SINGLE DAY.

ERĀN (HEAD COMMANDER) VAHRIZ, WHY DID YOU NOT ACCOMPANY FATHER ON HIS EXPEDITION?

IF YOU'RE SO BUSY, THERE'S NO NEED TO MAKE ME PRACTICE SWORD-FIGHTING OR WHAT HAVE YOU...

AS LONG AS THIS CITY IS BEING TARGETED, NOT JUST BY LUSITANIA TO THE WEST, BUT BY THE VARIOUS EASTERN COUNTRIES AS WELL, WE CANNOT LET OUR GUARD DOWN.

I HAVE BEEN TASKED WITH THE PROTECTION OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF ECBATANA AT THIS TIME.

I KNOW THAT!

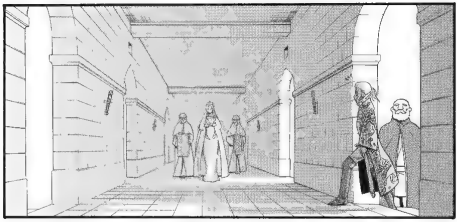
I KNOW THAT, BUT STILL...

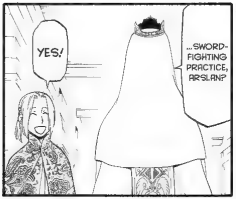
OUTSIDE OF JUST KNOWING THE BASICS OF SWORD-FIGHTING, YOU MUST ALSO APPEAR TO BE IN FULL COMMAND OF YOUR GRACEFUL BEARING!

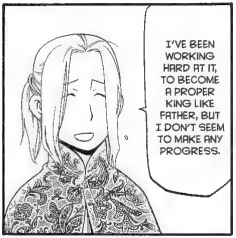
YOU MUST TRAIN YOUR SWORD-FIGHTING SKILLS, IN PREPARATION FOR THAT DAY.

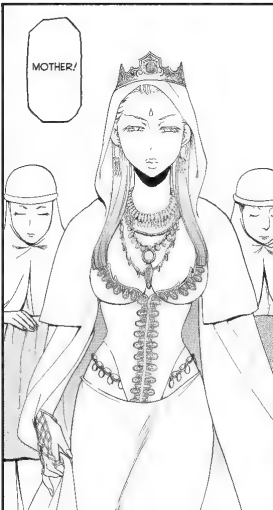
NOT TO MENTION, YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU HAVEN'T HAD YOUR FIRST BATTLE YET.

IF YOU SPEAK LIKE THAT WITHOUT AMBITION, YOU SHAN'T BE ABLE TO BECOME A PROPER KING!



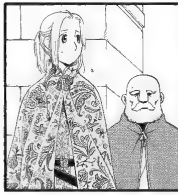

YES!
...SWORD-FIGHTING PRACTICE, ARSLAN?

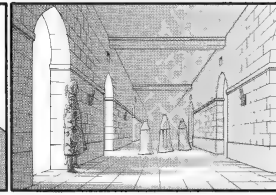

I'VE BEEN WORKING HARD AT IT, TO BECOME A PROPER KING LIKE FATHER, BUT I DON'T SEEM TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS.


MOTHER!

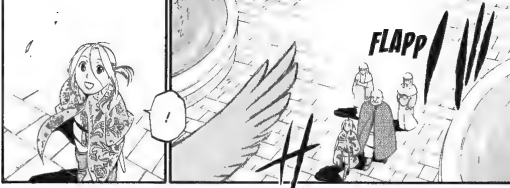
IS THAT SO.
AS ONE WOULD EXPECT FROM ERAN VAHRIZ! SOMEONE LIKE ME DID NOT STAND...

JUST NOW I WAS BEATEN SOUNDLY BY THE ERAN ...



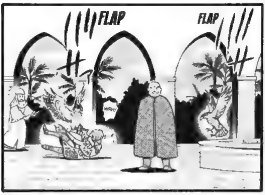


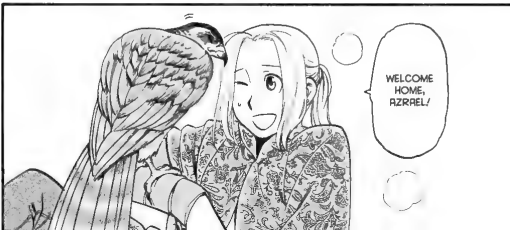
...JUST WHAT IS A PROPER KING, I WONDER?

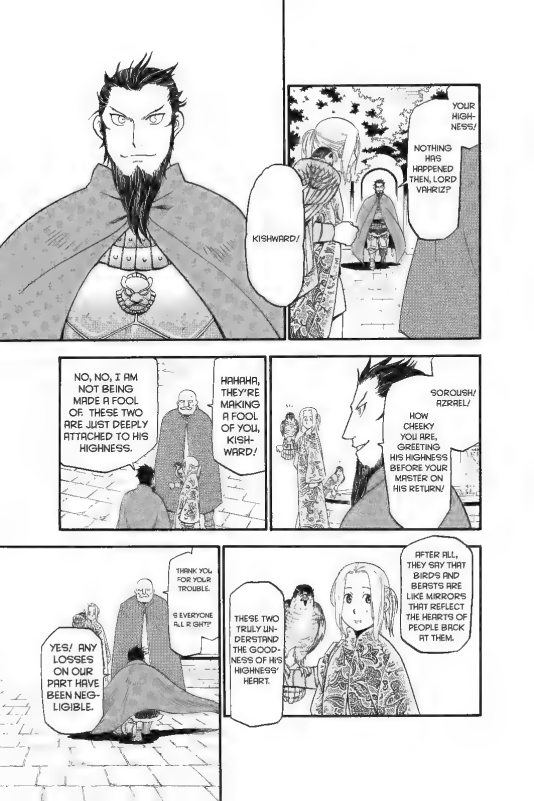

!
FLAPP

COME HERE!
HO! IF THESE TWO HAVE RETURNED, THAT MEANS...

SOR-OUSH!
AZRAEL!


FLAP
FLAP


WELCOME HOME, AZRAEL!

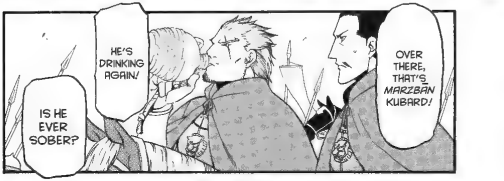

KISHWARD!
YOUR HIGHNESS!
NOTHING HAS HAPPENED THEN, LORD VAHRIZ?
NO, NO, I AM NOT BEING MADE A FOOL OF. THESE TWO ARE JUST DEEPLY ATTACHED TO HIS HIGHNESS.
HAHAHA, THEY'RE MAKING A FOOL OF YOU, KISHWARD!
SOROUSH/ AZRAEL/
HOW CHEEKY YOU ARE, GREETING HIS HIGHNESS BEFORE YOUR MASTER ON HIS RETURN!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TROUBLE.
IS EVERYONE ALL R GHT?
YES! ANY LOSSES ON OUR PART HAVE BEEN NEGLIGIBLE.
AFTER ALL, THEY SAY THAT BIRDS AND BEASTS ARE LIKE MIRRORS THAT REFLECT THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE BACK AT THEM.
THESE TWO TRULY UNDERSTAND THE GOODNESS OF HIS HIGHNESS' HEART.

OUR ARMY OF PARS DROVE BACK THE LUSITANIAN FORCES THAT HAD INVADED OUR ALLIES AT MARYAM.

WAH
わっ
HIS MAJESTY ANDRAGORAS RETURNS!

IS THAT A PRISONER?
IT'S A LUSITANIAN SOLDIER!
LUSITANIA EVEN SENDS CHILDREN LIKE THAT TO WAR?!
POOR THING... I WONDER WHAT HIS PARENTS COULD HAVE BEEN THINKING?!
THAT THING ABOUT "FIGHTING FOR GOD," WASN'T IT?
IT'S THAT YALDABAOTH RELIGION, HM?
I'VE HEARD THEY EVEN SLAUGHTER THE NEWBORNS OF NON-BELIEVERS.
HOW BARBAROUS!

SIR KHARLAN!
HOW COOL!
AH! _ MARZBAN (CAVALRY LEADER) KHARLAN!
THE KINGDOM OF MARYAM IS EASY ENOUGH TO GET ALONG WITH, EVEN THOUGH THEY SHARE THE SAME YALDABAOTH RELIGION...


IS HE EVER SOBER?
HE'S DRINKING AGAIN!
OVER THERE, THAT'S MARZBAN KUBARD!

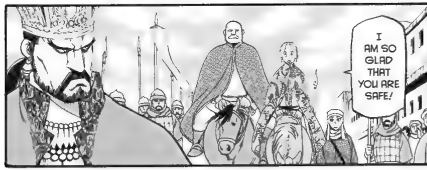
THERE'S NO LONGER A CAVALRY ON THE CONTINENT THAT CAN DEFEAT OUR KINGDOM OF PARS!
THEY SAY THAT KING ANDRAGO-RAS HAS NEVER BEEN DEFEATED IN BATTLE!

YOU LIAR!
DID YOU KNOW? THEY SAY HE GOT THAT SCAR ON HIS LEFT EYE WHEN HE BATTLED A DRAGON!
I'LL BE TAHIR (TWIN-BLADE GENERAL) MARZBAN KISHWARD, AFTER ALL!

THEY SAY HE DEFEATED A LION AT THIRTEEN!
STUPID! WHY WOULD THAT KING NEED YOUR PROTECTION!
WHEN I GROW UP, I'M JOINING THE CAVALRY TO PROTECT THE KING!

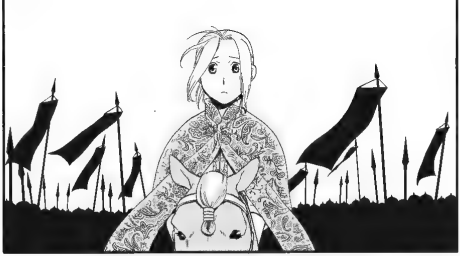
FATHER!

AMAZING...
WORAHH...


I AM SO GLAD THAT YOU ARE SAFE!

AYE.
REPORT WHAT HAP-PENED WHILE I WAS GONE.

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU FIGHTING IN FARRWAY LANDS...
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD HAVE LOST.
VA-PHREZE!

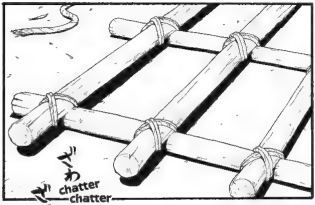


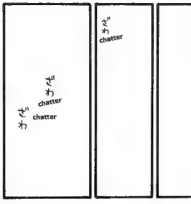
... HOW ABOUT PRINCE ARSLAN?
HMMM... YOU CAN'T COUNT ON HIM...
WE'LL HAVE TO JOIN THE CAVALRY AND PROTECT HIM, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT!

わ-H-H-H-H
あああああああ
WWAAAあああ

THERE HE IS!

HUH? ONLY THE ONE?
COULD THEY ALL HAVE BEEN DIVIDED UP AMONG THE OTHER SLAVE-TRADERS?
LET'S STOP THIS, AFTER ALL...
WHAT, NOW?/ YOU'RE GOING TO JOIN THE CAVALRY, RIGHT?/
HOW COULD YOU BE AFRAID OF SOMETHING LIKE A LUSITANIAN, THEN?/
LOOK AT HIM/ EVEN THOUGH HE'S A WARRIOR, HE'S JUST A CHILD, ISN'T HE?
ON TOP OF THAT, HE'S NOW A GHOLAM (SLAVE)./
LET'S SMACK HIM ONE SO HE KNOWS HE CAN'T DISOBEY US PARSIANS.
LET'S GO/ SMACK HIM ONE/
YEAH/ SMACK HIM ONE!/
SMACK
CLICK


ざわ
chatter
chatter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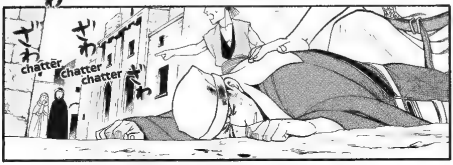
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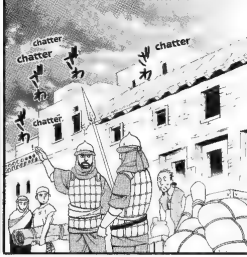
IT WOULD BE FINE IF HE HAD JUST RUN OFF, BUT...
A LUSITANIAN BRAT CAPTURED IN THE BATTLE!
WARES?

WHAT'S ALL THIS?
MY WARES HAVE ESCAPED !!

WHAAAT?!
THE PRINCE PROTECTED US...!!

HUH?
WHAT?
WHY ARE YOU CLOSING THE CASTLE GATES?!
IT'S STILL WELL BEFORE SUNSET!
WE'VE GOT SOMEONE WHO FELL ILL DURING THE JOURNEY! WE NEED A DOCTOR TO LOOK AT THEM!!
I'VE GOT NEGOTIATIONS THAT NEED TO BE WRAPPED UP TODAY!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN I CAN'T GET IN?!
HEY, HEY...
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN INSIDE...?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WHAT'S ALL THIS COMMOTION?
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter

SIR DRYUN!! SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED!!
WHAT IS IT?

IT'S PRINCE ARSLAN!!
!
WAH!
OWW!
WAH!
WAH!
WAH!

WAIT!!

STOP!!

NHH...

GRIP

INCH INCH

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER... IF YOU DO, I'LL SNAP HIS NECK!!

OW OW OW OWW!

SO YOU MUST BE A SPOILED KID FROM A WEALTHY FAMILY, THEN?

THEY CAME TO CATCH ME IN SUCH NUMBERS, AND ON TOP OF THAT THEY BACK DOWN FROM THE TINIEST BIT OF THREAT...

.....

!!
IT'S NOTHING TO DO WITH US.
LOOK, MOVE YOUR HANDS.
IF WE DON'T FINISH WASHING QUICKLY, OUR MASTER WILL BE ANGRY.
SPLOSH
SPLOSH
HUH?
RUSH
RUSH
RUSH
RUSH
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?

BOOSH
ばさ!!
FLAP
... PRINCE ARSLAN ...?
OW, OWW !!
RUN, YOU GLORY-SEEKS!
... WE'VE GOT TO WASH THEM AGAIN...
THAT STUPID PRINCE...

GLIDE
ALL THE OTHERS...
WHERE ARE THE OTHER PRISONERS?!
YOUR FRIENDS?
I'VE NO IDEA... I DON'T KNOW...
GLIDE
YOU'RE USELESS...
?!
WH, WH, WH, WH, WH, WHA...?!

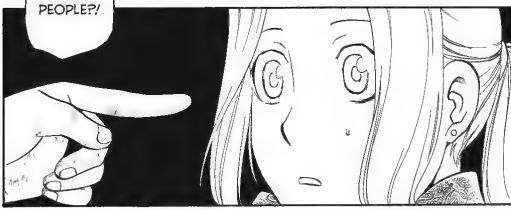
GRAB
...HN!!
どっ THUNK
FWOOSH
ふん
WHMOOOO
...!!
FWAP
すぽん
ARE YOU HURT?
SORRY, YOU REALLY SAVED...

THE PERFORMERS OFTEN BRING THEM HERE.
YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ONE?
WHAT IS THAT LONG-NECKED CREATURE?!
COME ON!!
OW! OW! OW! OW! OW!
JUST HOW SPOILED ARE YOU?!
"NO IDEA" YOU SAY...? YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING OF THE WORLD, DO YOU!
...I HAVE NO IDEA?
OFTEN...?!
SO IT'S A CREATURE FROM AROUND THESE PARTS?!
JUST FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH THINGS AND PEOPLE...
WHAT A PROSPEROUS KINGDOM...

THIS ROYAL CAPITAL OF ECBATANA IS THE CITY AT THE CENTER OF OUR CONTINENT'S HIGHWAYS.
MARYAM
DARBAND INLAND SEA
CONTINENTAL HIGHWAY
ECBATANA
PARSIANS ARE UNACQUAINTED WITH STARVATION, AND LIVE IN CULTURE AND PROSPERITY.
PARS
IN SOUTHERN PARS, WHERE GOODS FROM THE LAND ROUTES TO THE WEST AND EAST COLLECT, THERE'S ALSO THE PORT CITY OF GILAN.
GILAN
MISR
PROS-PERITY?
CUL-TURE?
AS FAR AS I'VE SEEN, THOUGH, THERE SEEM TO BE A LARGE NUMBER OF GHOLAMS IN THE CITY?
OF COURSE THERE ARE!
THE WEALTHY ARE ABLE TO KEEP MANY GHOLAMS.
THE ABUNDANCE OF GHOLAMS PROVES THIS KINGDOM'S PROSPERITY.

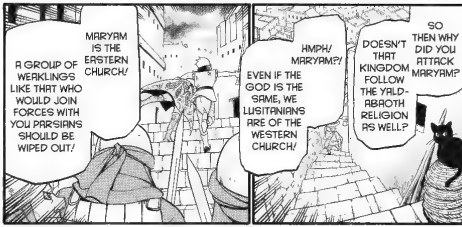
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?!
IF YOU JUST SUBMIT PROPERLY AND BECOME A *GHOLAM* TOO YOU'D HAVE NO TROUBLE GETTING FOOD!
SHUT UP!
A—AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU COULD LIKELY LIVE BETTER THAN IN LUSITANIA...
WHAT'S THAT?! ARE YOU CALLING MY KINGDOM POOR?!
NO, I JUST THOUGHT THAT IF A CHILD LIKE YOU HAD TO GO TO WAR, YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT MILITARY POWER...
I'M NOT A CHILD!! I'M ALREADY ELEVEN!!
WAIT THERE, YOU
ELEV...
HUH?! YOU'RE THE SAME AGE AS ME?! SO YOU ARE A CHILD, AFTER ALL!!
AT THIS AGE I'M ALREADY A PROPER WARRIOR!!
TO PLEDGE MY ALLEGIANCE TO MY GOD, YALDA-BAOTH, I WILL WIPE OUT THE HEATHENS!!
WHY DO YOU HATE BELIEVERS OF OTHER RELIGIONS SO MUCH?

OUR GOD YALDABAOTH, TREATS ALL MEN EQUALLY!
BUT HOW ABOUT YOU PEOPLE?!



WHAT ABOUT YOUR SLAVERY SYSTEM THAT PUTS OTHER'S BENEATH YOU?!
OUR GOD YALDABAOTH, WON'T ALLOW SUCH THINGS!!
ALL MEN ARE EQUAL!!

THEREFORE, IT IS FINE TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST AND KILL YOU HEATHENS WHO DON'T FOLLOW THE TEACHINGS OF OUR GOD!!
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS INCON-SISTENT!


MARYAM IS THE EASTERN CHURCH!
A GROUP OF WEAKLINGS LIKE THAT WHO WOULD JOIN FORCES WITH YOU PARSIANS SHOULD BE WIPED OUT!
HMPH! MARYAM?!
EVEN IF THE GOD IS THE SAME, WE LUSITANIANS ARE OF THE WESTERN CHURCH!
DOESN'T THAT KINGDOM FOLLOW THE YALD-ABAOTH RELIGION AS WELL?
SO THEN WHY DID YOU ATTACK MARYAM?

YOU REALLY ARE A NAIVE, SPOILED BOY!
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOUR PARENT'S FACES!
... BUT YOU'VE BEEN ASKING A LOT OF QUESTIONS FOR A WHILE NOW, HAVEN'T YOU?!

MIGHT THEY NOT BE IN HIGH SPIRITS, CELEBRATING THE VICTORY?

WHY COULD IT BE, I WONDER? IT SEEMS TO BE BUSTLING DOWN THERE...

HAS ANYTHING CHANGED WHILE I WAS GONE?

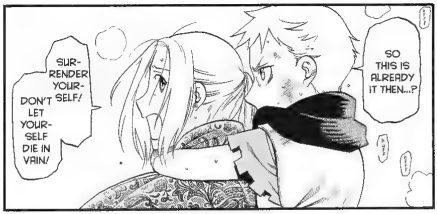
I'VE RETURNED, TAHAMENAY.

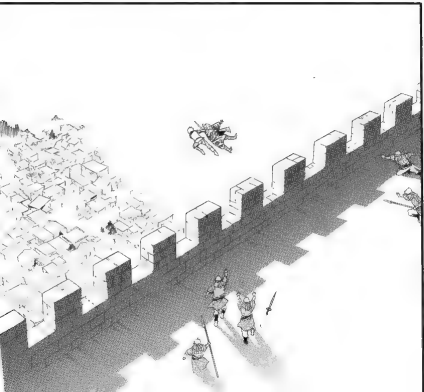
CREEE

WHY NOT AT LEAST TAKE OFF YOUR ARMOR?

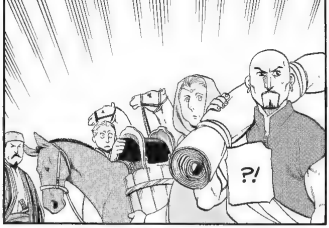
A SOU-VENIR.
I GOT MY HAND'S ON SOME FINE SILKS...
IS THAT SO?
PLEASE LEAVE THEM THERE.
I'LL RETURN.
SLAM!!!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
DON'T COME CLOSER !!
...DO YOU NOT CARE...
...WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM?!


SURRENDER YOURSELF/ DON'T LET YOURSELF DIE IN VAIN/
SO THIS IS ALREADY IT THEN...?

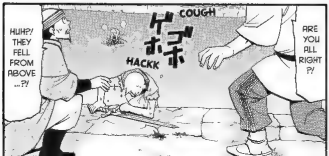


YOUR HIGHNEESSSS!!


?!

WHA, WHAT?!

...BWAAH!!


HUH? THEY FELL FROM ABOVE ...?!
ゲホゴホ
COUGH
HACKK
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

SPLOSH
アリ
110
アリ
SPLOOSHH
110

GRAB
HEY, WAIT, YOU!!
WAIT ONE...
OH?!
YOU...
HORSE THIEF!!
YOUR HIGH-NESS!!

whew
HE'S SAFE!

DARYUN!!
WAIT!!

THUNK
PHEWW
?

ARSLAN, YOUR HIGHNESS, ARE YOU HURT?!
I'M FINE.
FOL-LOW HIM!
GO, GO!
HE STOLE A HORSE AND RAN!
TO THE WEST!

WHY... IT JUST SLIPPED OUT...

WHY DID YOU STOP ME FROM SHOOTING HIM?
MY HORSE!
CATCH HIM, PLEASE!

I UNDERSTAND.
WE WILL JUST SAY THAT I MISSED THE SHOT.

THEY'RE SAYING HE WAS CAPTURED AND DRAGGED AROUND BY A PRISONER?
WHAT A CLOSE CALL!
WHAT IS HE DOING ...?!
I KNOW, RIGHT ...?

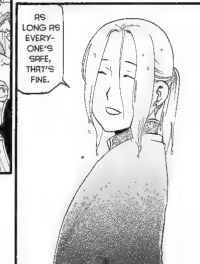
HIS HIGH-NESS'S LIFE WAS PUT IN GRAVE DANGER, ALL BECAUSE OF YOU LOT!!
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE PREPARED TO FACE THE CONSE-QUENCES?!
SPARE US!!
PLEASE SPARE US!!

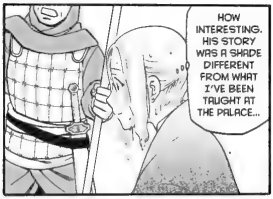
YOUR HIGH-NESS!!
PLEASE FORGIVE US, YOUR HIGH-NESS!!

HIC
HICC
YEAH ...
WHEN I GROW UP, I'M JOINING THE CAVALRY TO PROTECT HIS HIGHNESS, FOR SURE...
EGH
ME TOO ...

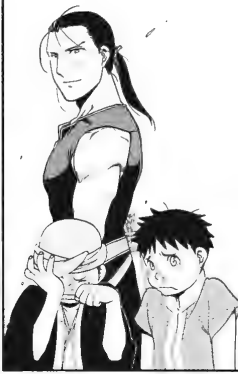
YOU HEAR THAT?! NO MORE CHANCES!!
YOU FILTHY BRATS!!
YEESSS~

HUH? IS THAT ALL RIGHT?
FINE.
LET THEM GO.

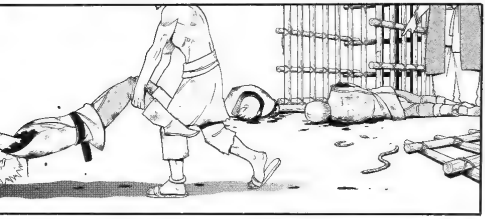

AS LONG AS EVERY-ONE'S SAFE, THAT'S FINE.


HOW INTERESTING. HIS STORY WAS A SHADE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN TAUGHT AT THE PALACE...

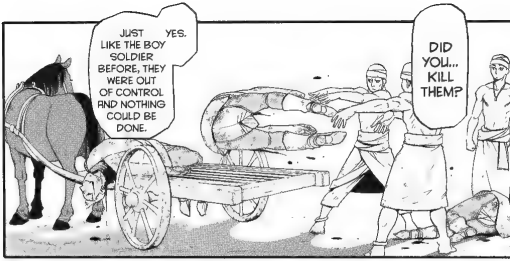
I'LL TRY ASKING THE OTHER CAPTURED LUSITANIANS ALL SORTS OF THINGS...



I'LL SURELY COME RESCUE YOU...!!
EVERY-ONE... BE SAFE...

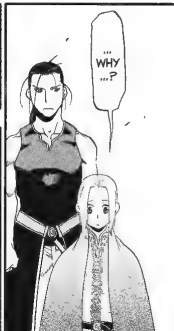


YOUR HIGH-NESS?!
WHY ...?
THIS WON'T DO! YOU SHOULDN'T BE IN SUCH A DISGUST-ING PLACE AS THIS!


DID YOU... KILL THEM?
YES. JUST LIKE THE BOY SOLDIER BEFORE, THEY WERE OUT OF CONTROL AND NOTHING COULD BE DONE.

LUSITANIANS AND SUCH ARE JUST LIKE BEASTS.
THEY CAN'T BE TAMED.

IF YOU HAD JUST OBEDIENTLY BECOME *GHOLAMS*, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO LOSE YOUR LIVES...
WHY IS IT...?


... WHY ...?

I DON'T UNDER-STAND IT.
DAR-YUN.

ONE DAY...
...WHEN YOUR HIGHNESS ASCEND'S TO THE THRONE, I HAVE A FRIEND I'D LIKE YOU TO GIVE AN APPOINTMENT TO.
?
WHO IS THAT?
...FATHER'S RULE WILL STILL LIKELY NOT FALTER FOR MANY TENS OF YEARS FROM NOW.
WHAT AN INSINU-ATION THAT IS!
HE'S SUCH A CONTRARY PERSON. LET US JUST FORGET THIS CONVERSA-TION HAP-PENED...
OH...
WHY, JUST A SLIP OF MY TONGUE!

SO AS LONG AS FATHER IS AROUND, OUR PARS AND THIS CITY OF ECBATANA WILL BOTH REMAIN AT PEACE.

IT SEEMS I WON'T MEET YOUR FRIEND OR SUCH FOR QUITE A WHILE.

HA HA HA

The strong and the weak. Those who have and those who have not. A strange, severe fate awaits a boy swayed by the laws of nature.

Watch with anticipation for the next issue!!

Three years later, in Year 320 by the Pars Calendar, the Crown Prince Arslan is facing his first battle at Fourteen.

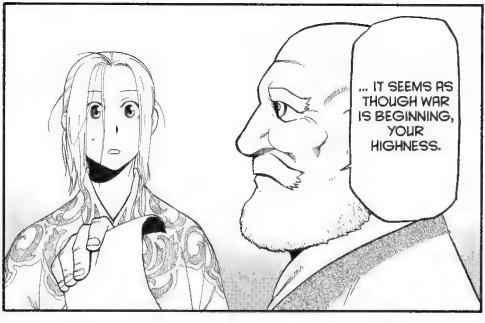
That year, the Royal Capital of Ecbatana will be enveloped in flames and sprays of blood.

CRING
"The basics are important"! Arslan is mid-practice again today!!

This story is fiction. It has no connection to real people, groups or events.

FROM KING AN-DRAGO-RRAS...?
I HAVE COME BEARING THIS, WHICH HIS MAJESTY BESTOWED UPON ME.
WHAT IS IT?

WHY...
.....


... IT SEEMS AS THOUGH WAR IS BEGINNING, YOUR HIGHNESS.

Autumn, Year 320 of the Pars Calendar.
To the northwest, the army of the Kingdom of Lusitania has brought the Kingdom of Maryam to ruin, and invaded the Kingdom of Pars.
Andragoras III, leading the army himself, heads to engage with the invading forces in the Fields of Atropatene.

Original Work
YOSHIKI TANAKA
(Published by Kobunsha Kappa Novels)

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

CHAPTER 2: The Encounter at Atropatene

Manga
HIROMU ARAKAWA
At the time, he is fourteen.

KHARLAN...

COULD YOU BE NERVOUS, YOUR HIGHNESS?

...

THIS WAR, HIS MAJESTY ANDRAGORAS HAS TAKEN TO THE BATTLEFIELD HIMSELF; AND FURTHERMORE, LORD *ERÃN* VAHRIZ IS HERE AS WELL.

DO NOT WORRY YOURSELF.

YES...

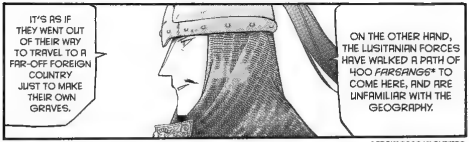
IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE, AS IT IS YOUR HIGHNESS' FIRST BATTLE.

ON TOP OF THAT, WE ALREADY HAVE A GRASP ON THE WHOLE TERRAIN OF THE PLAINS OF ATROPATENE THAT LAY BEFORE US.

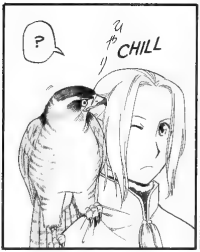
ALL TOGETHER, 85,000 CAVALRYMEN, AND STILL MORE, A MASSIVE FORCE OF 138,000 INFANTRYMEN.

EIGHT *MARZBĀNS*, AND EACH OF THEIR TEN THOUSAND CAVALRY.

FIVE THOUSAND OF THE ROYAL GUARD.



* ABOUT 2000 KILOMETERS.


?
CHILL

FL
FLAPP
WELCOME BACK!
DID YOU HAVE FUN OUT THERE?

KHARLAN.
AZRAEL CAME BACK FROM THE DIRECTION OF ATROPATENE, AND HIS WINGS ARE WET.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

THE DIRECTION THAT AZRAEL FLEW IN FROM...

YOUR FEATHERS ARE WET...

ISN'T IT ODD THAT IT'S SO SUNNY HERE?
I WONDER IF IT WILL BE OKAY.

HE'S LIKELY JUST BALKING BECAUSE IT'S HIS FIRST FIGHT.
THE PRINCE IS A WORRIER.
WHAT IS THERE TO BE AFRAID OF?
EVEN IF IT DID, SO WHAT?
IMPOSSIBLE, WITH SUCH A BLUE SKY?
IS IT GOING TO RAIN OR SOMETHING?

.....

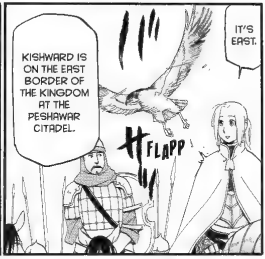
I HOPE HE DOESN'T RUN OFF, BUT...
WONDER IF HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT LIKE THAT?
SEEMS HE DIDN'T INHERIT THE COURAGE OF KING ANDRAGORAS.

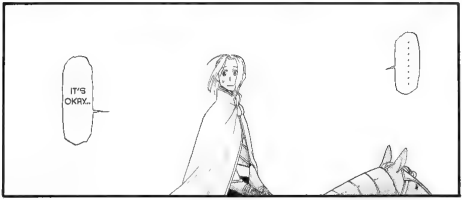
YOU GO BACK TO WHERE KISHWARD IS.
RZRRIEL.

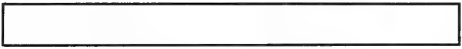
SKRR
I'M GOING OUT TO SCOUT ONCE MORE.

IT'S OKAY.
I'M FINE.

THE WEATHER MAY TURN BAD, AND FIGHTING MIGHT START SOON, SO GO HOME.
... EVEN SO, YOU'RE WAY MORE USED TO THE BATTLEFIELD THAN SOMEONE LIKE ME, HUH...
HA HA HA


IT'S EAST.
KISHWARD IS ON THE EAST BORDER OF THE KINGDOM AT THE PESHAWAR CITADEL.
FLAPP


IT'S OKAY...
.....



WE CAN'T SEE A THING AT ALL, HUH...

NEEIGHH

A FOG THIS THICK IS RARE AROUND THESE HERE PARTS.

BFRRR.

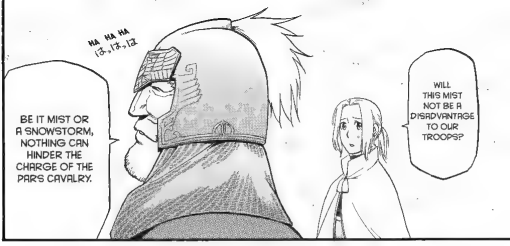
IT'S BEYOND ME...

FOR THE WEATHER TO PICTURLLY HAVE TURNED OUT LIKE THIS...

DON'T GET TOO FAR FROM HIS MAJESTY THE KING'S HEAD-QUARTERS, YOUR HIGH-NESS.

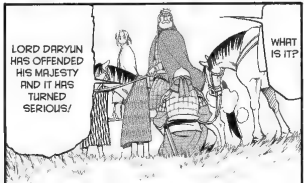
IF YOU LOSE YOUR WAY IN THIS MIST IT WILL BE QUITE THE PROBLEM.

IT TURNED OUT JUST LIKE THE PRINCE SAID...


HA HA HA
BE IT MIST OR A SNOWSTORM, NOTHING CAN HINDER THE CHARGE OF THE PAR'S CAVALRY.
WILL THIS MIST NOT BE A DISADVANTAGE TO OUR TROOPS?

YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU SURELY MUST KNOW THAT SINCE KING ANDRIGORAS TOOK THE THRONE OUR PAR'S FORCES HAVE BEEN UNDEFEATED.
DO NOT WORRY.

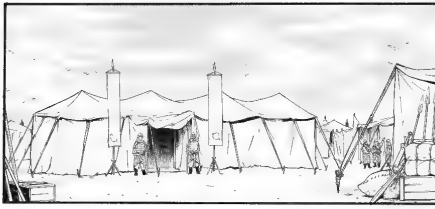
SHR
SHR
LORD ERAN VAHRIZ!
COME TO THE BASE QUICKLY!


LORD DARYUN HAS OFFENDED HIS MAJESTY AND IT HAS TURNED SERIOUS!
WHAT IS IT?

PLEASE STOP THAT, VAHRIZ.
SHALL WE PRACTICE SWORD FIGHTING?
IF YOU MOVE AROUND, YOU'LL NOT FEEL THE NEED TO OVER-THINK THINGS.

I'M GOING TOO!
I UNDERSTAND. I'LL GO RIGHT AWAY!
THAT SORT OF THING WILL AFFECT THE MORALE OF ALL THE TROOPS BEFORE THE BATTLE!

DARYUN?!
WHAT, MY NEPHEW?!



I'VE MISJUDGED YOU, DARYUN!!
THWAP

NOT TO MENTION, BEFORE THE WAR HAS EVEN STARTED...!
TO BE HEARING WORDS LIKE "RETREAT" FROM YOUR MOUTH.
HAVE YOU BEEN POSSESSED BY THE SPIRIT OF A COWARD?

YOUR MAJESTY, I AM NOT SPEAKING OUT OF COWARDICE.

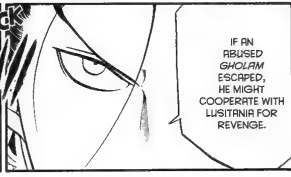
YOUR MAJESTY, PLEASE CONSIDER THIS.
IF THAT'S NOT COWARDICE, THEN WHAT WOULD YOU CALL IT?/
A MARDAN (WARRIOR) WHO AVOIDS BATTLE...

THOUGH THAT IS THE CASE, WHY WOULD THE LUSITANIAN FORCES INTENTIONALLY PREPARE FOR BATTLE AND AWAIT OUR ARMY IN THE PLAINS, WHERE MOUNTED COMBAT IS AT AN ADVANTAGE?
IT IS WELL KNOWN IN ALL KINGDOMS THAT THE CAVALRY OF OUR PARS ARMY IS EXCEEDINGLY STRONG.
I THINK THAT FOR THE TIME BEING WE SHOULD PULL BACK AND PREPARE FOR BATTLE IN FRONT OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL ECBATANA.
WE CAN BARELY EVEN MAKE OUT THE MOVEMENTS OF OUR OWN TROOPS.
TO SAY NOTHING OF THIS FOG.
I BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE SET UP SOME SORT OF TRAP.
BUT IF SOMEONE FROM OUR KINGDOM WAS AMONG THE LUSITANIAN FORCES YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SAY THEY WERE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE GEOGRAPHY.
I DON'T KNOW AS MUCH.
WHAT SORT OF TRAP WOULD THOSE LUSITANIAN SAVAGES, WHO DON'T KNOW THE TERRAIN, SET UP?
I HADN'T NOTICED, BUT IT SEEMS AS THOUGH YOU'VE BECOME MORE OF AN EXPERT AT USING YOUR MOUTH THAN A BOW OR SWORD, DARYUN.
SLIDE

FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING THIS, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE.

YOU'RE SAYING SOMEONE FROM OUR KINGDOM IS COOPERATING WITH THE LUSITANIAN BARBARIANS...?
IMPOS-SIBLE!!

THWACK


IF AN ABUSED *GHOLAM* ESCAPED, HE MIGHT COOPERATE WITH LUSITANIA FOR REVENGE.

WHAT'S THIS YOU'RE SAYING ABOUT A GHOLAM?

THAT IMPUDENT FOOL WAS BANISHED FROM MY ROYAL COURT! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT HE'S BEEN FORBIDDEN FROM ASSOCIATING WITH THOSE WHO SERVE IN MY PALACE?!

I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN, YOUR MAJESTY!!

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT YOU SEEMED TO BE SPEAKING INTELLIGENTLY...

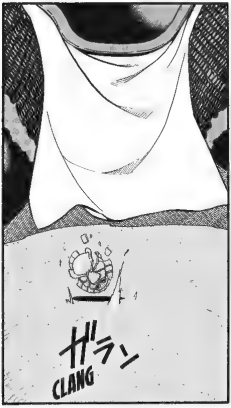
...THAT NARSUS HAS BEEN FILLING YOU WITH HIS GOOD-FOR-NOTHING IDEAS!

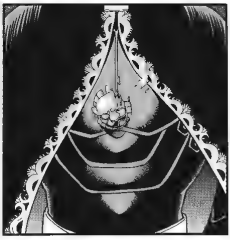
YOU'RE SAYING HE IS YOUR FRIEND?! IMPUDENCE!

THWAP

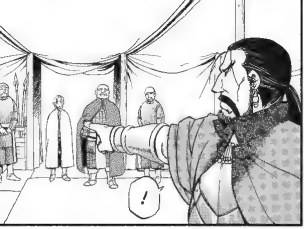
I MAY BE FRIENDS WITH NARSUS BUT I HAVE NOT SEEN HIM ONCE IN THESE LAST FEW YEARS!

FWACK

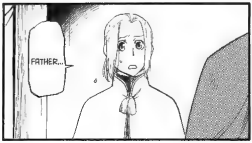

ガラン
CLANG



AT LEAST BE GRATEFUL THAT I DO NOT STRIP YOU OF YOUR TITLES AS *MARDĀN* AND *SHIRGHIR* (LION HUNTER).
I RELEASE YOU OF YOUR DUTY AS *MARZBĀN!*


!

GET OUT.
DON'T SHOW YOURSELF BEFORE ME AGAIN!


FATHER...

I DIDN'T CALL UPON YOU, SO JUST WHAT HAVE YOU COME HERE FOR, ARSLAN?!
YOU GO BACK AND JUST THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN PERFORMANCE IN BATTLE!!

TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

UNCLE, I DIDN'T SAY ANY...
YOU ARROGANT PERSON! WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY SPEAKING BACK TO HIS MAJESTY, WHO YOU ARE SO INDEBTED TO!

WHAP

THWACK

SNIFFF

.....

WHEEEWW

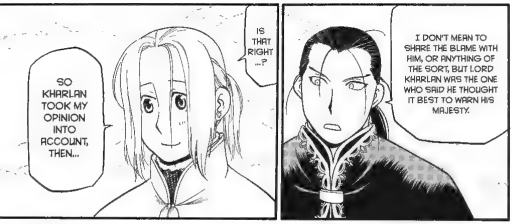
YOUR MAJESTY.
PLEASE FORGIVE MY IMPUDENT NEPHEW'S RUDENESS.
THIS OLD MAN HUMBLY BEGS YOUR FORGIVENESS.
YOUR MAJESTY.
I FORGOT MY PLACE AND ACTED TOO FORWARD.
THE ONE STATEMENT I WILL NOT TAKE BACK IS RELEASING YOU FROM YOUR DUTIES AS MARCHSAN. BUT I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO REINSTATE YOUR POSITION.
DAR-YUN.
...THAT'S ENOUGH, VAHRIZ.
IF YOU COULD SOMEHOW SHOW YOUR MERCY AND BE FORGIVING OF MY NEPHEW'S OFFENSE.
...I AM MUCH OBLIGED, AND HAVE NO WORDS WITH WHICH TO THANK YOU.
YOU CAN ATONE FOR YOUR OFFENSES WITH YOUR MILITARY PROWESS.
ATTEND TO MY CAMP AS A KNIGHT DURING THIS BATTLE.

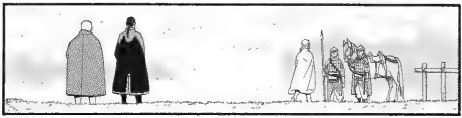
WHAT, YOU'RE STILL HERE?

PLEASE BE ASSURED!
...I WILL LEAVE SHORTLY.

WHAT YOU SAID WAS CORRECT, WASN'T IT?
YES.
LORD KHARLAN BELIEVES THE SAME.

I HAVE CAUSED A GREAT INCONVENIENCE TO YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
I DON'T MIND.

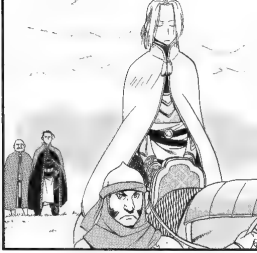

SO KHARLAN TOOK MY OPINION INTO ACCOUNT, THEN...
IS THAT RIGHT ...?
I DON'T MEAN TO SHARE THE BLAME WITH HIM, OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT, BUT LORD KHARLAN WAS THE ONE WHO SAID HE THOUGHT IT BEST TO WARN HIS MAJESTY.



COME NOW, DARYUN/ THIS IS STILL THE MAIN CAMP/
DO YOU WANT HIS MAJESTY TO TAKE OFF YOUR HEAD THIS TIME/
HE'S TOO HARSH IN ALL MATTERS.
I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER IF HIS MAJESTY THE KING HAD JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE CONSIDERATION FOR HIS HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCE.

WHEN HE THOUGHT HE WAS CORRECT, HE LOST ALL SENSE OF PROPRIETY IN HIS SPEECH.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING...?
NARSUS WAS LIKE THAT TOO.

HUHP
WHAT IS THAT, ALL OF THE SUDDEN?
BY THE WAY, DARYUN.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT HIS HIGHNESS RASLAN'S FACIAL FEATURES?



WHICH DO YOU THINK HE LOOKS LIKE, THE KING OR THE QUEEN?

I SEE.
HE DOESN'T LOOK HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

IF... I HAD TO SAY, ISN'T IT MORE LIKE THE QUEEN?
HM, THAT'S RIGHT.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, AT SUCH A LATE JUNC-TURE...?
I ALWAYS INTEND TO SERVE THE ROYAL FAMILY OF PARS.
WON'T YOU PLEDGE YOUR FEALTY TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS ARSLAN?
DARYUN?
I MEAN HIS HIGHNESS, PERSONALLY.
DARYUN.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, SHALL I PRESENT YOU WITH A WRITTEN PLEDGE?
NO, AS LONG AS YOU'VE SWORN IT, THAT'S ENOUGH.
DO YOU SWEAR BY YOUR SWORD?
...YES.
I SWEAR BY MY SWORD.
?
ALL RIGHT.
IF THAT IS YOUR WISH, UNCLE...

AFTER ALL, YOU ARE ONE OF THE GREATEST WARRIORS AMONG WARRIORS IN OUR KINGDOM, OF A GROUP WHICH I COULD COUNT ON FIVE FINGERS...

I JUST WANT YOU TO BE HIS HIGHNESS AR'SLAN'S ALLY.

IT'S THE SIGNAL TO CHARGE.

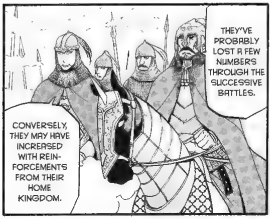
BWAAAAAN

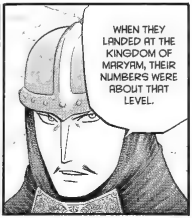
MH/

BWAAAAAN..

... UNCLE?

KHARLAN.
HOW ARE THE ENEMY'S NUMBERS?
BY MY ESTIMATE, THERE ARE LIKELY ABOUT 25,000 TO 30,000 CAVALRY...
... AND BETWEEN 80,000 TO 90,000 INFANTRYMEN.


THEY'VE PROBABLY LOST A FEW NUMBERS THROUGH THE SUCCESSIVE BATTLES.
CONVERSELY, THEY MAY HAVE INCREASED WITH REINFORCEMENTS FROM THEIR HOME KINGDOM.


WHEN THEY LANDED AT THE KINGDOM OF MARYAM, THEIR NUMBERS WERE ABOUT THAT LEVEL.

IF THE CONDITIONS ARE EVENLY MATCHED, I THINK THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT OF OUR FORCE'S VICTORY.
HM.

WITH THIS FOG WE CAN'T SEE THE ENEMY FORCE'S POSITION...
HMM...

YOUR MAJESTY, DO NOT WORRY YOURSELF.
NATURALLY, THE ENEMY CANNOT SEE OUR POSITION, EITHER.

ENEMIES AHEAD!!
SKRKRR
AT A DISTANCE OF ABOUT EIGHT AMAJ* AHEAD OF US ARE THE ENEMY'S FORWARD UNITS!
*ABOUT 2000 METERS.
AND YOU'VE COMPLETED SCOUTING THE TERRAIN AHEAD, HAVEN'T YOU?
VERY CARE-FULLY.
IN FRONT OF US IS A WIDE OPEN PLAIN.
WE ARE LIKELY PROTECTED BY THE SPIRIT OF THE HERO KING, KAYKHUSRAW.
THERE ARE NO FAULTS OR BASINS THERE.
NO MATTER HOW THICK THE FOG, IF YOU LEAVE IT UP TO THE GAIT OF YOUR STEED, YOU CAN MOVE STRAIGHT AHEAD.

THE HERO KING KAYKHUSRAW!
THE SPIRITS OF THE OTHER MONARCHS!
THE GREATEST KINGS OF PARSIAN HISTORY!
THE SAGE KING JAMSHID!
BESTOW YOUR PROTECTION ON OUR FORCES!!
BESTOW YOUR PROTECTION ON OUR FORCES!!

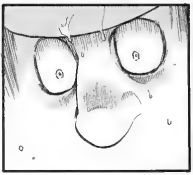
YASHASUIIN!!
(CHARGE!!)
ROOOOOARRRR
RRRR
RRRUMMBLLLL

RRRUUMMMBBBL
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-
TH-THUMP
TREMBLE TREMBLE
THEY CAME...
THE PARS CAVALRY'S CHARGE...
...HAS COME ...!!

WHHOOOOAAAAAA?!
GYAHH
WH WH WHIINNY
GWAH!!

YOUR HIGHNESS, ST--!
WAHHHHHHHH
WHAT IS THIS?!
AAAHHHH
WHY IS THERE A HOLE HERE...?!
GBWAH!
SPLOSH
GO BACK!!
DON'T COME THIS WAY!
GYAAHH
WAAAAAH
PLOOSH
SQUSHH
IT'S NO USE!! WITH THIS FOG, THE REAR CAN'T SEE IT!!
HACKK
COUGHH
BBBRRRR

SLIDE



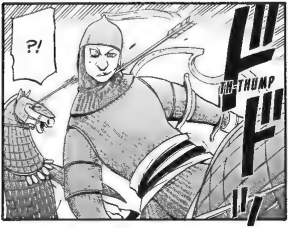
IT'S OIL!!
THEY'RE PLANNING TO SET US ON FIRE!!

GAWHOOSH

ARSLAN, YOUR HIGH-NESS, PLEASE STAND BACK!!
WE'RE DRAWING BACK FOR NOW!!
PROTECT HIS ROYAL HIGH-NESS!!
NEEKHEE

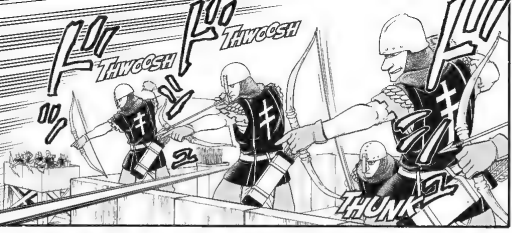
RETREAT!! RETREAAAATT!!
SHHKKKRRR
TH-THUMP
RETR...
DON'T PUSH!!
STOP THE CHARGE!!
THUMP TH-THUMP TH-THUMP TH-THUMP TH-THUMP
DON'T PUUUUSSH!!
STOP!!
WHHOOAAAAHHHHHH
WHAT'S HAP-PEN-ING?!
IN THE REPORT THERE WAS NOT A SINGLE MENTION OF A HOLE LIKE THIS BEING HERE....
THU
THUNK

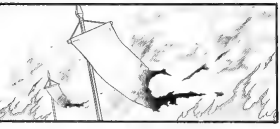
THERE'S OIL EVERY-WHERE...
KHH...
FWOOOSHH


?!
THUMP

WHOA WHOA!! CALM DOWN!!
NNEEIGGGHHHH

RRRUUMMBBBLLLL


THWOOSH
THWOOSH
THUNK



GH...

THUDD

RRHYAA!
FOOM

THK-KRING
NHH...
YOU'RE QUITE GOOD, BOY!!
CLANG
CL-CLACK
CRING
CLANG
CLONG
CLACK

THWUSH

THUDD

OH...
NNEI
GHHH

HOW DARE YOU...

ROLL
YOU HEATHEN!!
CRA-CRING
SKTRUMP
SPLUT

WAAAAHHHHH
FATHER ...
DARYUN!!
VA-HRIZ!!
... AZRAEL...!!

ONE
WAAAAHHHH
GYAAHHHH
ANY-ONE...

WHERE ARE YOU?!
THAT VOICE ...

ARE YOU THERE?!
ARSLAN, YOUR HIGH-NESS?!

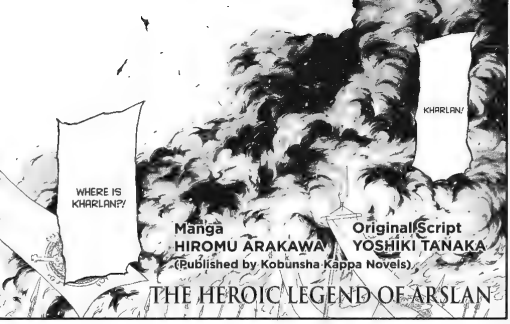
YOUR HIGH-NESS!

I HEARD YOUR VOICE!
YOUR HIGH-NESS!

KHARLAN!! I'M HERE!!
YOUR HIGH-NESS!!
ALL MY MEN WERE KILLED!
HELP M...

OHH... SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE.
Kharlan, the King's right-hand man!! He appears on the scene, accompanied by the enemy!! He is the traitor!! Arslan has his back against the wall!!

ARSLAN, YOUR HIGHNESS



This story is fiction. It has no connection to real people, groups or events.

CHAPTER 3: The Knight in Black

YOU SEARCH FOR HIS HIGHNESS ARSLAN, AS I WILL PROTECT HIS MAJESTY THE KING.
HIS HIGH-NESS?
WE CAN'T FIND HIM.
IT SEEMS HE WAS AT THE FRONT OF THE CHARGE.
!!
HE MUST HAVE WANTED TO GAIN THE APPROVAL OF HIS FATHER THROUGH HIS MILITARY EXPLOITS...
WHAT AN UNRELI-ABLE THING TO DO...
IT MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE, BUT PLEASE GIVE HIM YOUR PROTEC-TION!
I WILL TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY FOR THE KING'S WRATH!
UNDER-STOOD!
SKR
UNCLE.
LET'S MEET AGAIN IN ECBATANA!
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP

TR-THUMP
TR-THUMP
TR-THUMP

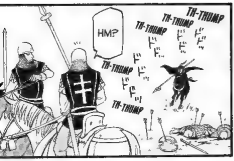
GA-CLANG

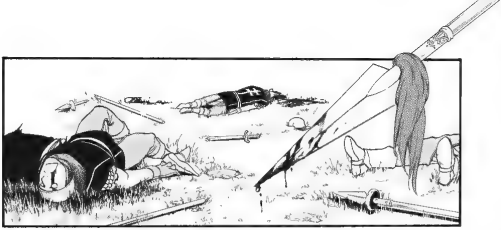
HOW ABOUT YOUR PLATOON?
DID ALL 10,000 OF YOUR CAVALRYMEN DIE IN BATTLE?
I AM NOT A MARZBAN NOW.

THE PRINCE?
DUNNO WHERE HE IS.
HAVE YOU SEEN HIS HIGHNESS ARSLAN?

LORD KUBARD!
THAT YOU, DARYUN?!

KA-THUNK
KA-THUNK
THWACK
I MADE AN OATH TO MY UNCLE, SO I MUST SEARCH FOR HIS HIGHNESS.
THEN, WANT TO TAKE ABOUT 100 OF MY MEN WITH YOU?

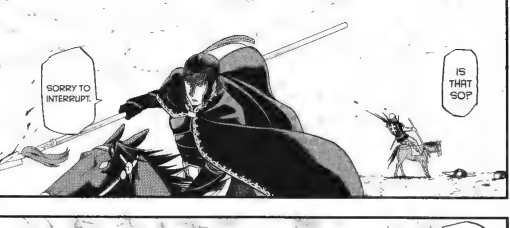




YOU OVER THERE.
?!

SHAKE
SHAKE

DID YOU NOT SEE SOMEONE AT THE HEAD OF OUR FORCES WEARING A LION HELMET?


SORRY TO INTERRUPT.
IS THAT SO?

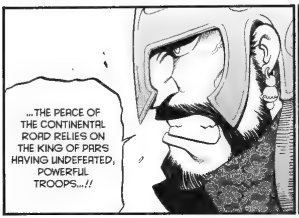
PLEASE WITH-DRAW.
YOUR MAJESTY THE KING.
THERE IS NO LONGER A CHANCE OF WINNING THIS BATTLE.

VAHRIZ, WHY YOU...
ARE YOU SAYING YOU THINK I HAVE NO SHAME AS A WARRIOR?

RETREAT.

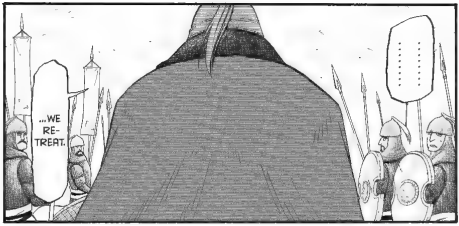
YOUR MAJESTY! PLEASE BEAR THE SHAME TODAY FOR VICTORY TOMORROW!
AS THE PROTECTOR OF THE GREAT CONTINENTAL ROAD CAN I JUST SIMPLY RUN AWAY?!

IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND THE KINGDOM, TOO, THERE STILL REMAIN 20,000 CAVALRYMEN AND A LITTLE MORE THAN 120,000 INFANTRYMEN!
IN THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF ECBATANA THERE ARE STILL 20,000 CAVALRYMEN AND 45,000 INFANTRYMEN!


...THE PEACE OF THE CONTINENTAL ROAD RELIES ON THE KING OF PARS HAVING UNDEFEATED, POWERFUL TROOPS...!!

ON TOP OF THAT, IF YOU ADD THE STRUGGLING TROOPS WE STILL HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH FORCE TO STAND UP TO THE LUSITANIAN ARMY.

ARE YOU SAYING IT IS ALL RIGHT TO HAND THE ROYAL CAPITAL, WHERE LADY QUEEN TAHMENAY IS, OVER TO THE ENEMY?!


...WE RE-TREAT.
.....

THE KING HAS FLED!!

RETREAT! HURRY!
RE-TREAT!!

PROTECT HIS MAJESTY THE KING!!

REPORT TO LORD KHARLAN.
THAT, AND SPREAD THIS LOUDLY AROUND THE BATTLEFIELD.

ANDRAGORAS III HAS FLED!!

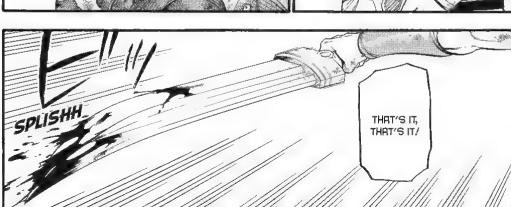
THAT ANDRAG-ORAS...
THE UN-DEFEATED KING...
...HAS FLED!!
THIS IS LUSITANIA'S VICTORY!!

CLANG

FOR THE SHAH (KING) WHO COMMANDED OUR ARMY TO HAVE FLED WHILE WE'RE FIGHTING, RISKING OUR LIVES...

HE... FLED ...?
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT RE-TREATING ...?
THE KING HAS FLED ALONE?!
THERE'S NO WAY!!

THE BATTLE STAN-DARDS OF PARS HAVE BEEN SUL-LIED...
THIS CAN'T BE UN-DONE...!!


SPLISHH
THAT'S IT, THAT'S IT!

LET'S ALSO TAKE THE LIBERTY OF RUNNING OFF AS WE PLEASE, SHAPUR.
KUBARD!
HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT?!
WHO AM I EVEN SUPPOSED TO FIGHT FOR ANY-MORE?
I DON'T HAVE A LIFE TO SACRIFICE FOR THE KIND OF MONARCH THAT WOULD ABANDON HIS MEN AND FLEE.
HOW COULD A MARZBAN LIKE YOU TO ENCOURAGE THE TROOPS TO STOP FIGHTING!
A KING IS A KING. WE HAVE OUR OBLIGA-TIONS...
FIRST OF ALL, IT IS THE DUTY OF THE KING TO PROTECT THE KINGDOM...
IF THE KING NO LONGER FULFILLS HIS OBLIGATIONS, WHY SHOULD WE?
THAT IS EXACTLY WHY A KING HAS AUTHORITY AS A KING.
N-NO, THAT WAS JUST A RASHNESS...
AND YOU TOO, JUST CAST OFF YOUR HELMET IN ANGER, DIDN'T YOU?

EVEN IF WE ARE ALLIES, IF YOU CONTINUE TO DISGRACE HIS MAJESTY ANY MORE AS A RETAINER, I WON'T SPARE YOU.

HE MUST INTEND TO RETURN TO THE ROYAL CITY ECBATANA AND PREPARE TO FACE THEM AGAIN!
THE KING CANNOT HAVE DEIGNED TO FLEE!

AND JUST HOW DO YOU PLAN ON NOT SPARING ME?
HMM, INTER-ESTING...

SLIDE

THE ENEMY ATTACKS!!
TR-THUMP
TR-THUMP
TR-THUMP
TR-THUMP
ドドドドドドドドド

YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY, KUBARD?!

SKRR

OH MY.

DO NOT SAY YOU FORGOT LATER!

SKRR

SKRR

LET'S TALK MORE ABOUT WHICH OF US IS A BETTER RETAINER AT LENGTH AFTER WE FINISH THEM.

RIGHT, SHAPUR?

TIR-TIRIMP

TIR-TIR-TIRIMP

IF WE DON'T FIGHT OFF THAT ENEMY SQUADRON, WE LIKELY WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE AN ESCAPE ROUTE.

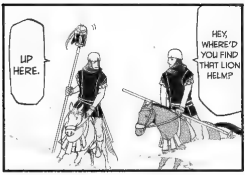
THAT IS, IF WE EVEN HAVE A LATER...!

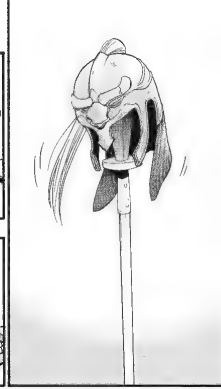
I WON'T FORGET...

TIR-TIRIMP

TIRIMP

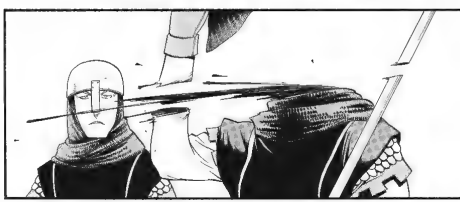
TIR-TIRIMP


UP HERE.
HEY, WHERE'D YOU FIND THAT LION HELM?

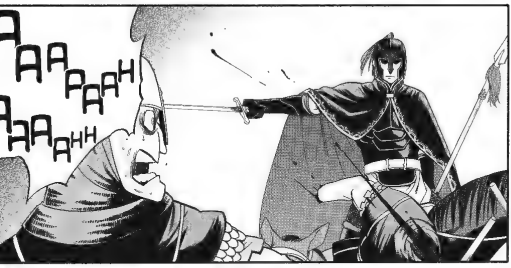


IT'S MY WAR TROPHY! STOP JOKING!
THAT'S A GOLD HELM, HUH? HAND IT OVER!

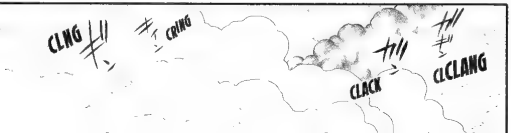
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
WHAT'S THE POINT OF PUTTING ANYTHING ELSE SHINY ON THAT BALD HEAD OF YOURS!
GIVE IT TO ME FOR A SECOND!
WHAT DO YOU THINK? IT SUITS ME BETTER, DOESN'T IT?



SPLSH
SPLSH
PEW
PEW


AAAAAAH
AAAAHH

WHERE DID YOU FIND IT?
THAT HELMET.


CLNG
CRING
CLACK
CLCLANG

TCH
KHARLAN...
...WHY?!
THUNK

WHOOSH

I HAVE MY REASONS.

YOU MAY HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG, BUT I WILL HAVE YOU DIE HERE.

...YOU POOR, SAD PRINCE.

WHEEW

WHAT IS THIS, KHARLAN?!

THUNK

CRING

CLUNK

KHARLAN!!

CRING

CRCK

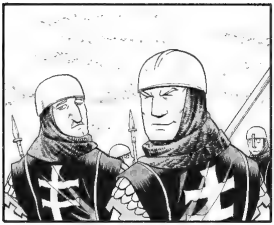
GYAH

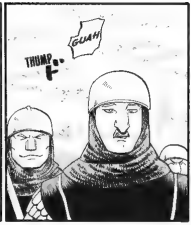
END HIM, QUICKLY!

HE'S A MARZBAN OF PARS, ISN'T HE?

IS HE GOING EASY ON HIM?

WHAT? HE'S BEING HELD UP BY A KID LIKE THAT...?




GLIAH
THUMP

THUNK
WHAT'S THAT ?

THUD

ごしゃっ
GA-THUNK

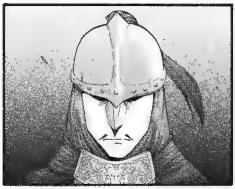
IS IT THE PAR'S ARMY?!
MUTTER MUTTER
WHAT?!
THUNK
GYAHHH
POPP
EEE!
ENEMIES, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MIST!!
HOW MANY MEN?!
JUST...
... ONE...

THUUMMMPP
TH-
THUNK
TH

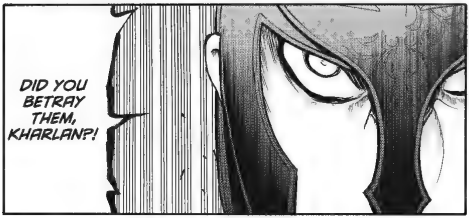
UNNK
TH-THUMP
THUMP
TH-THUNK

SPLOOSHH
ぴしゃ
あ
ズシ…
THUD
ズシ…
THUD
ズシ…
THUD

THUD
THUD
GLIDE
YOUR HIGH...
SKR



...WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, LORD KHARLAN?


DID YOU BETRAY THEM, KHARLAN?!

IS THAT SO... I SEE.

IT IS TRULY FOR THE SAKE OF THE KINGDOM OF PARS THAT I CONSPIRED IN THE PLAN TO DRIVE ANDRAGORAS FROM THE THRONE.
THIS IS NO BE-TRAYAL.

THAT WAS YOUR INTENTION, WASN'T IT?
YOU RECOMMENDED ME TO TELL HIS MAJESTY TO RETREAT JUST BEFORE THE BATTLE SO THAT I WOULD FALL INTO DISGRACE AND HAVE MY DUTIES AS MARZBAN STRIPPED...
EXACTLY RIGHT, DARYUN.
YOU MAY BE STRONG BUT YOU'RE NO FOOL.
WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY...
GA-
THUNK

...IT'S EXACTLY WHY I COULDN'T ALLOW YOU TO COMMAND 10,000 CAVALRYMEN!

CR-CRN

AFTER ALL, NO MATTER HOW BRAVE YOU MAY BE, A SINGLE HORSEMAN CAN'T TURN THE TIDES OF WAR!
NNG

SK SKR
ARSLAN, YOUR HIGHNESS.
PLEASE WAIT THERE FOR A MOMENT.
I, DARYUN, WILL PROTECT YOU.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
DAR-YUN.
WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE LEFT TO SAY AT THIS POINT?!
WAIT, DARYUN.
LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!

YOU BETRAYED HIS ROYAL MAJESTY THE KING, AND BEHAVED LIKE THIS TO HIS HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCE!!

WAIT!

IF YOU KNEW THE CIRCUM-STANCES YOU WOULDN'T CONDEMN BY ACTIONS...

...GWOHH!!

GA-CHING

CLACK

CLACK

CLACK

CLACK

CLACK

CLACK

THUNK

BWOHH

HNNF

HNNF

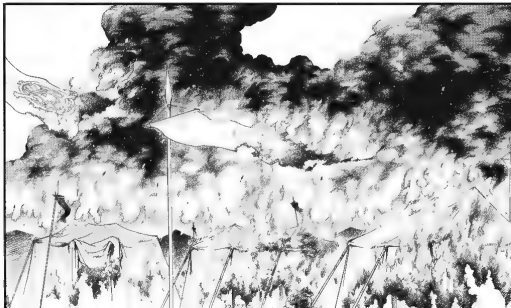
!
WHOOSH
THUNK
TAMP
!
ARE YOU RUNNING, YOU TRAITOR...?
...!
...I CAN KILL HIM ANY TIME.

ARE YOU HURT?!
NO, IT'S JUST BLOOD-SPRAY.

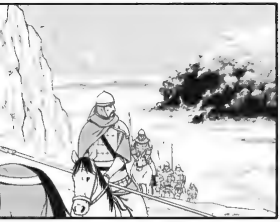
YOUR HIGH-NESS!

KHARLAN, WHY...?!

KHARLAN...



THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
THUMP



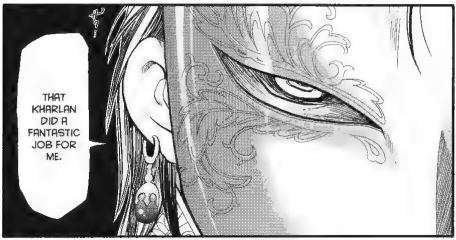
TH-TH-THUNK
TH-THUNK
THUNK
?!
TH
TH
TH
TH
THUNK
DEFEND THE CENTER!!
AN AM-BUSH!!
THUNK

THUNK
TH
TH
GYAAHH
SPLOOSH
SPLOOSH
WHOAAHH
TH-THUNK
TH-THUNKK
YOUR MAJESTY
NGWOHH
NNNH!!
KATHUNK

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

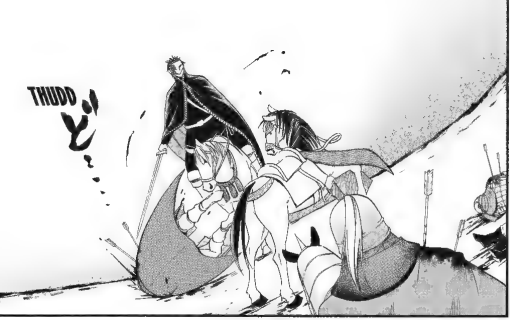


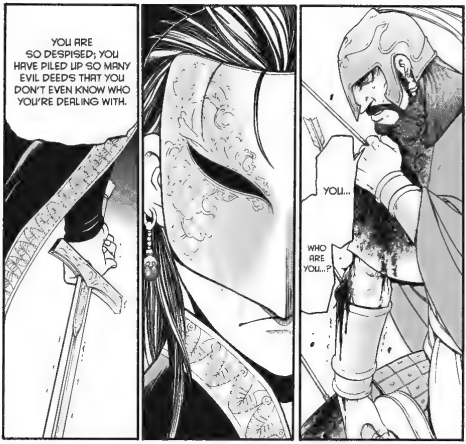
YOU ABANDONED YOUR MEN AND FLED WITHOUT SHAME?
ANDRRG-ORRS.

SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING YOU'D DO.

LORD KING, PLEASE RUN!!
THESE OLD BONES WILL KEEP THEM IN CHECK!!
YOU DEFERTED OLD FOOL.
DON'T FORGET YOUR PLACE!!

SPLOSH

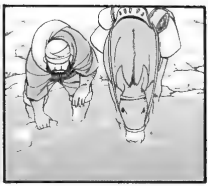

THUDD

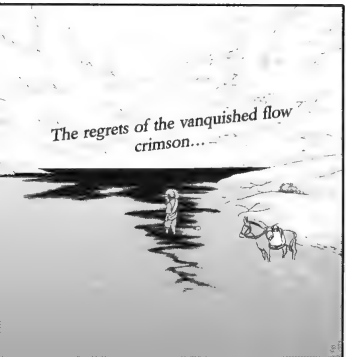

YOU ARE SO DESPISED; YOU HAVE PILED UP SO MANY EVIL DEEDS THAT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH.
YOU...
WHO ARE YOU...?

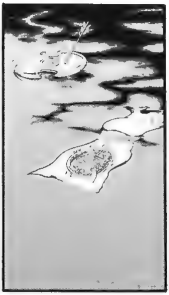
SIXTEEN YEARS...

I'VE WAITED SIXTEEN YEARS FOR THIS DAY TO COME!
ANDRAGORAS!!
His Father King... and Pars itself! comes to an end! The home Arslan was supposed to return to is now crushed!!

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN



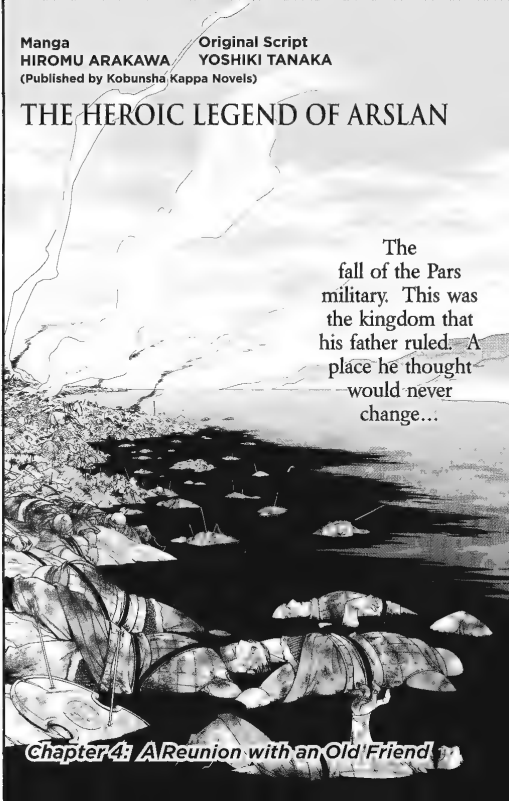




This story is fiction. It has no connection to real people, groups or events.

Manga
HIROMU ARAKAWA
Original Script
YOSHIKI TANAKA
(Published by Kobunsha Kappa Novels)

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN



Chapter 4: A Reunion with an Old Friend

POPP
SHAB-RANG!
DARYUN, THIS IS YOUR HORSE! THE HORSE OF A WARRIOR!
IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT FOR ME TO RIDE HIM!
YOUR HIGH-NESS.
THOUGH HIS SADDLE IS STAINED WITH BLOOD-SPRAY, PLEASE GET ON.

PLEASE, GET ON THIS ONE.
I CAN FIGHT WELL ENOUGH EVEN ON THAT HORSE OVER THERE.

NO OTHER HORSE CAN OVERTAKE THIS ONE'S STRIDE.
IN THE ONE-IN-A-MILLION CHANCE THAT SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO ME, PLEASE SWITCH SHABRANG ONCE TO GALLOP ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE BATTLEFIELD.

SWR
IT WON'T!
IN ORDER TO PROTECT YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS, I WON'T EVEN TAKE A ONE-IN-A-BILLION CHANCE!

WILL THAT ONE-IN-A-MILLION CHANCE HAPPEN?

TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
CRUNCH!
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
YOUR HIGHNESS/ PLERSE DON'T STRRY FROM BEHIND ME/
I'M FINE/ SHARRRNG UNDER-STANDS/
!!

GARHH

CRA-CLANG

LORD SHAPUR HAS...

YOU... I'M SURE YOU WERE FIGHTING UNDER LORD SHAPUR.

ARE YOU OKAY?/ HANG IN THERE!

GASP

LORD SHAPUR...

CALM DOWN/ WHAT HAPPENED?

LORD SHAPUR IS...
AMONG THE MARZBANS, LORD MANUCHURH AND LORD KHAYR HAVE ALREADY...
...DIED IN BATTLE...
KING A... ANDRAGORAS... FLED WITHOUT GIVING US THE COMMAND TO RETREAT...
...SO THE WHOLE ARMY LOST ITS MORALE ALL AT ONCE...
!
IS HE TRYING TO SAY THAT EVEN LORD SHAPUR HAS BEEN KILLED...?
LORD MANU-CHURH...
LORD KHAYR...
MY FATHER...
FATHER FLED?!
TO THE ROYAL CAPITAL?!

HANG IN...
HANG IN THERE!
shudder shudder

TAP

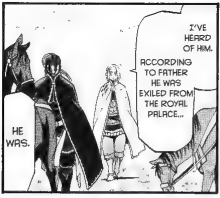
SLUMP

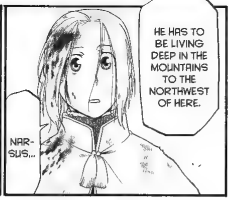
MY UNCLE, WHO IS A VETERAN OF COUNTLESS BATTLES, WAS WITH HIM, SO I BELIEVE HE MUST HAVE LEFT THE BATTLEFIELD SAFELY...

...I WONDER IF MY FATHER IS UNHARMED ...?

MY FATHER...
CONCERNED ABOUT ME...?
HIS MAJESTY THE KING WAS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR HIGHNESS ARSLAN.
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE ROYAL CAPITAL... TO ECBATANA, SOON...
NEVERTHELESS, TO GET TO ECBATANA WE WOULD HAVE TO KEEP HEADING ACROSS THE BATTLEFIELD.
IF SO MANY OF THE MARZBANS HAVE BEEN DEFEATED, THEN I BELIEVE THE ROAD TO ECBATANA MUST BE OVERFLOWING WITH LUSITANIAN SOLDIERS.
AH, RIGHT...

LET US TURN TO MY FRIEND NARSUS FOR HELP.





はははは WAHAHAHA
はははは HAHAHAHAHA
IT MAKES ME LAUGH THAT THEY FELL THIS CLEANLY INTO THE TRAP!
YEAH!
THIS WAS AN OVER-WHELMING VICTORY. HOW EXCELLENT.

UOOMM
WHO IS THAT MAN?
HE SEEMS SUSPICIOUS...
THEY SAID THAT THE WHOLE THING WAS PLANNED BY THAT GUEST MILITARY COMMANDER WEARING THE SILVER MASK, AND SUCH...

THUNK
WHO...
WHORP!
TH-THUNK

TH-THUMP
TH-TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
WHA...
ARE THE PAR'S CAVALRYMEN INDESTRUCTIBLE?!
THUDD

GA-
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK

おお
おお
おお
OOOHHHHHH

おおおおお

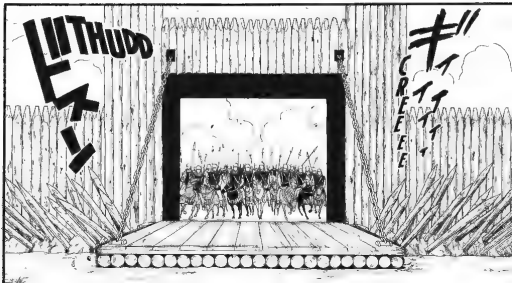
しゃ
GA-THOOSH

TH-THUNK
THUNK
TH-
TH-
THUNK
TH-THUNK
TH-THUNK

IF WE HAD FOUGHT THEM HONESTLY, THERE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY CHANCE OF OUR WINNING AT ALL.

HOW STRONG THE PAR'S ARMY IS.

PW-PAAN
PWAAA


THUDD
CREEEEE

NEW LUSITA-NIAN FORCES, HUH...?
FOR THE GLORY OF PARS...!

SPLLOOSH

SCR
SCRRR
SCRCRR
SCR
Year 320 of the Pars Calendar. October 16th.
On this day, in the Fields of Atropatene, 93,000 cavalrymen and 74,000 infantrymen perished in battle, and the Kingdom of Pars lost half of its military force.

THUNK
TEAR OUT HIS HEART!!
GYAAAA
YOU HEATHEN!!
GO TO HELL!!
The victors, the Lusitanian Army, lost a total of more than 50,000 cavalrymen and infantrymen.
BECAUSE OF OUR FANATICAL KING AND ACCURSED MURDER-LOVING CLERGY, WE ALSO ENDED UP HAVING TO LEAVE SO MANY DEAD IN A FOREIGN LAND.
IT'S NOT SO BAD, MONTFERRAT.

OUR DEAD COMPATRIOTS GET TO GO TO HEAVEN, AND WE SURVIVORS GET TO RULE THE PROSPEROUS PARS!
ITS GREAT CONTINENTAL ROAD, SILVER MINES, WIDE-OPEN GRANARIES AND ALL!
DO YOU REMEMBER THE WAR AT MARYAM?
BALDOUIN.
HM?
NOT TOO LONG AGO, WHEN WE DESTROYED MARYAM, WE THREW THEIR CHILDREN, AND EVEN THEIR NEWBORNS INTO THE FIRE. DID WE NOT?
YES.
THEY WERE THE ENEMIES OF GOD, AFTER ALL.
PLEASE STOP
STOP...
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

I WONDER IF GOD WILL GIVE HIS BLESSING TO PEOPLE LIKE US, WHO, EVEN IF THEY ARE HEATHENS, KILL NEWBORNS?
THEIR CRIES FROM THAT TIME STILL RING IN MY EARS AND WON'T GO AWAY.

WE DID IT!
THE KING OF PARS, ANDRAGORAS III...

SIR BALDOUIN!
SIR MONTFERRAT!

splsh
splsh

IS NARSUS THAT CONTRARY INDIVIDUAL YOU MENTIONED AT ONE POINT?
YES.
HE USED TO BE THE LORD OF DRYLAM.

AS FAR AS THAT GOES, IT SOUND'S STRANGE TO SAY 'LUCKILY.' BUT GIVEN THE STATE YOUR HIGHNESS AND I ARE IN...

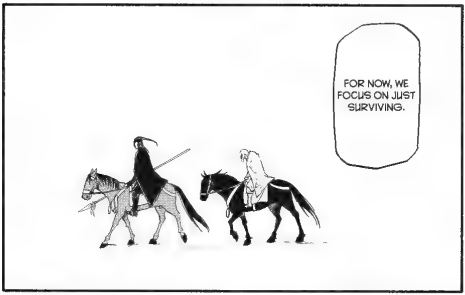
...I WONDER IF HE WILL MEET WITH ME, AS THE SON OF THE KING...?

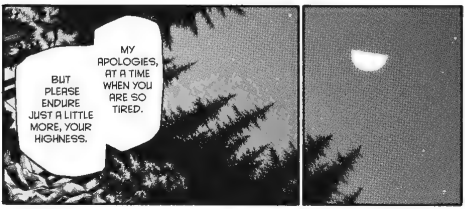
...FAIL-URES...

PITI-FUL....

...HE WON'T REFUSE PITIFUL FAILURES LIKE US, BECAUSE HE IS CONTRARY.

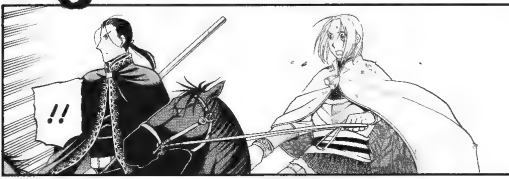
LATER ON, WE SHALL CHALLENGE THEM TO A REMATCH WITH HIS MAJESTY THE KING AND AVENGE OURSELVES.
AS FOR TODAY, THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO.


FOR NOW, WE FOCUS ON JUST SURVIVING.


MY APOLOGIES, AT A TIME WHEN YOU ARE SO TIRED.
BUT PLEASE ENDURE JUST A LITTLE MORE, YOUR HIGHNESS.

.....
NARSUS LIKES PAINTINGS?
I'VE HEARD THAT NARSUS LIVES UP HERE.
IT SEEMS HE IS HOLED UP IN HIS MOUNTAIN VILLA, AND SPENDS HIS LIFE READING FOREIGN BOOKS AND PRINTING PICTURES.
WELL...
EVERYONE HAS SOME KIND OF FLAW.
FHOOSH
?
HE UNDERSTANDS THE MOVEMENTS OF THE PLANETS AND STARS, THE TOPOGRAPHY OF FOREIGN LANDS, THE CHANGES IN HISTORY... THERE IS NOTHING THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW ABOUT, SAVE FOR HIS OWN SKILL IN ART...
...ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE THEY SAY LOVES SOMETHING BUT IS TERRIBLE AT...

THACK


!!

PAST THIS POINT IS THE HOME OF SIR NARSUS, FORMER LORD OF DAYLAM.
I WON'T ALLOW THE UNINVITED TO TRESPASS ACROSS THIS BORDER.

IF YOU GO ANY FURTHER, MY NEXT INQUIRY GOES STRAIGHT TO THE MIDDLE OF YOUR FACE.

LEAVE BEFORE YOU'RE HURT.
I CAME TO MEET WITH YOUR MASTER!
CAN YOU PLEASE LET ME PASS THROUGH HERE?
IS THAT ELAMP
THIS IS DARYUN!
WELL, IF IT ISN'T SIR DARYUN!
PUSH

IT HAS BEEN QUITE A WHILE!

DESPITE THE FACT I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU, PLEASE EXCUSE MY RUDENESS.

YOU'VE GROWN, ELIAS.

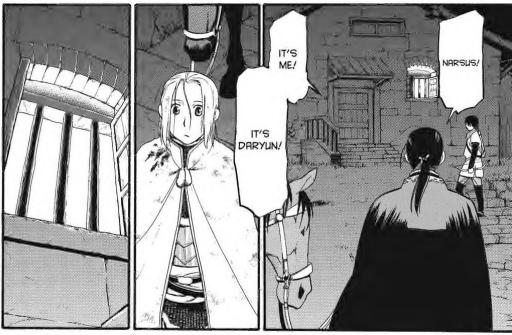
IS YOUR MASTER WELL?

YES, HE'S FINE.

...SO, THEN.
IS HE STILL DRAWING AND THEN THROWING AWAY HIS BAD PAINTINGS, AS USUAL?
I DON'T KNOW GOOD PAINTINGS FROM BAD ONES.

I SIMPLY TAKE CARE OF SIR NARSUS IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY PARENT'S LAST WISHES.

AS SIR NARSUS IS THE ONE WHO GAVE MY PARENTS FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY.


IT'S ME!
IT'S DARYUN!
NARSUS!

YOU NOISY BAS-TARD.
YOU DON'T NEED TO NAME YOUR-SELF.
CREE
I COULD HEAR YOUR VOICE FROM A WHOLE *FARSANG* AWAY.
This is the trickiest man on the whole continent!